

What is claimed is:

1. A fixing device for fixing a toner image formed on a recording medium, comprising
 an endless belt passed over a plurality of rollers;
 a press roller pressed against a portion of said belt passed over a fix roller belonging to said plurality of rollers; and
 a heat source for applying heat to the toner image carried on the recording medium being conveyed via a nip where said belt and said press roller are pressed against each other;
 said nip having a width greater than 25° inclusive in terms of a circumferential angle as seen from an axis of said fix roller.

2. A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a surface of said belt is covered with a parting agent.

3. A fixing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said belt has a surface layer covered with a sponge-like heat insulating material having a thickness which is more than 17 % of a diameter of said fix roller inclusive.

4. A fixing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said heat source is located at a position other than an inside of said fix roller.

5. A fixing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said sponge-like heat insulating material has a hardness of less than 30° inclusive in terms of Ascar hardness.

6. A fixing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said press roller has a surface layer formed of an elastic material and less than

643460 222650

sub
A17

26

a high parting ability.

¹³~~13~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim ¹²~~14~~, wherein a drive force for driving said belt is applied to said fix roller.

¹⁴~~14~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim ¹³~~15~~, wherein the drive force is applied to said press roller via a one-way clutch.

¹⁵~~15~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat source is located at a position other than an inside of said fix roller.

sub A37
18. A fixing device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said sponge-like heat insulating material has a hardness of less than 30° inclusive in terms of Ascar hardness.

19. A fixing device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said press roller has a surface layer formed of an elastic material and less than 2 mm thick inclusive and having a hardness of higher than 40° inclusive in accordance with JISA.

¹⁶~~16~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim ¹⁷~~19~~, wherein said surface layer of said press roller is covered with a material having a high parting ability.

¹⁷~~17~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim ¹⁸~~20~~, wherein a drive force for driving said belt is applied to said fix roller.

¹⁸~~18~~. A fixing device as claimed in claim ¹⁹~~21~~, wherein the drive force is applied to said press roller via a one-way clutch.

sub A47
23. A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said press roller has a surface layer formed of an elastic material and less than 2 mm thick inclusive and having a hardness of higher than 40° inclusive

in accordance with JISA.

~~24~~²¹ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~23~~²¹, wherein said surface layer of said press roller is covered with a material having a high parting ability.

~~25~~²³ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~24~~²³, wherein a drive force for driving said belt is applied to said fix roller.

~~26~~²⁴ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~25~~²³, wherein the drive force is applied to said press roller via a one-way clutch.

~~27~~²⁵ A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said surface layer of said press roller is covered with a material having a high parting ability.

~~28~~²⁶ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~27~~²⁶, wherein a drive force for driving said belt is applied to said fix roller.

~~29~~²⁷ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~28~~²⁶, wherein the drive force is applied to said press roller via a one-way clutch.

~~30~~²⁸ A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a drive force for driving said belt is applied to said fix roller.

~~31~~²⁹ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~30~~²⁸, wherein the drive force is applied to said press roller via a one-way clutch.

~~32~~³⁰ A fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a drive force is applied to said press roller.

~~33~~³¹ A fixing device as claimed in claim ~~32~~³⁰, wherein the drive force is applied to said fix roller via a one-way clutch.